



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
Acting United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

# **News Release**

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## **Fridley man indicted for bank robbery**

A 40-year-old Fridley man was indicted this week by a federal grand jury in Minneapolis on one count of bank robbery in connection with April 25 holdup of the TCF Bank in Fridley.

Steven Walter Smialek's indictment, filed on May 12, alleges that he did by force, violence and intimidation, take approximately \$1,540 from a teller at the TCF Bank, located at 5205 Central Ave. N.E., in Fridley.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, the robber entered the bank at approximately 6:55 p.m. and stood in line for an open teller. Once a teller was available, he approached the teller, placed a note on the counter, and said something to the effect of, "I'm armed and hand over the money."

The teller complied and gave cash to the robber, who grabbed it and left the bank. Subsequent to the robbery, photographs of the robber were aired in the local media. Police received numerous tips by concerned citizens stating that the robber appeared to be Smialek.

Smialek was arrested on an earlier complaint without incident April 28 outside of his place of employment in Coon Rapids. During an executed search warrant of Smialek's residence, police found clothing worn by and items used by the bank robber.

If convicted, Smialek faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the FBI and the police departments of Coon Rapids and Fridley, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.